

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 06448 01 OF 02 142253Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /053 W  
-----031550 142317Z /12

O 142155Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9404

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 6448

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: ARIZAGA'S APPOINTMENT TO SET PRECIPITATES  
CONSPIRACY CHARGES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE APPOINTMENT OF RAFAEL ARIZAGA AS  
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL HAS SET OFF A WAVE  
OF VERBAL PROTEST. ARIZAGA, WHO HAS SWORN TO PROVE THAT THE  
JULY 16 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WAS VITIATED BY FRAUD, IS  
SCHEDULED TO MAKE HIS SPEECH SEPTEMBER 15. IN ANTICIPATION,  
CIVILIAN AND MILITARY GROUPS ARE DRAWING LINES WHICH WILL  
DETERMINE WHETHER A WIDELY-PREDICTED GOLPE OF THE RETORNO PROCESS  
THIS WEEKEND IS SUCCESSFUL OR NOT. END SUMMARY.

2. RAFAEL ARIZAGA VEGA, WHO HAS BEEN THE STORMY PETREL OF  
THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (AND MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT  
JARRIN'S TRIGGERMAN ON THE SET) WAS NAMED BY THE GOE AS  
PRESIDENT OF THE SET ON SEPTEMBER 13 IN REPLACEMENT OF JOSE  
BAQUERO DE LA CALLE WHO RESIGNED THE DAY BEFORE (REFTEL).  
THE APPOINTMENT OF ARIZAGA, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO GO ON  
THE AIR THIS WEEKEND TO "PROVE" THAT THE JULY 16 ELECTIONS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 06448 01 OF 02 142253Z

WERE VITIATED BY FRAUD, WAS NEARLY UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED  
BY THE MEDIA AND POLITICIANS AS COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE  
AND THE WORST POSSIBLE CHOICE. THE PROTEST WAS EVEN  
JOINED THIS TIME BY GUAYAQUIL'S EL TELEGRAFO--THE AROSEMENA  
GOMEZ FAMILY NEWSPAPER--WHICH HAD GENERALLY BEEN CONSIDERED  
AS FAVORABLE TO THE INVALIDATION OF THE JULY 16 ELECTION  
AND THE THWARTING OF JAIME ROLDOS' PRESIDENTIAL CHANCES.

3. THE EDITORIAL OUTPOURING WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT ANOTHER TUMULTUOUS SESSION OF THE SET THAT EVENING. WHEN CFP OBSERVER GALO VAYAS PROTESTED ARIZAGA'S APPOINTMENT AND BEGAN TO READ A STINGINGLY CRITICAL EDITORIAL FROM QUITO'S ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, A SHOUTING MATCH BEGAN AND ARIZAGA SUMMONED THE POLICE TO ARREST VAYAS. HE IS NOW IN CUSTODY AWAITING SENTENCING BY A POLICE MAGISTRATE-- THE SECOND POLITICIAN JAILED IN RECENT DAYS FOR CRITICIZING THE SET.

4. LATER THE SAME EVENING ROLDOS AND SIXTO DURAN-BALLEN, THE PROBABLE SECOND-PLACE FINISHER) APPEARED BEFORE INQUIRING REPORTERS FROM EL COMERCIO AND EL TIEMPO ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. THE REPORTERS ZEROED IN ON THE CANDIDATES' ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SCHEDULED ARIZAGA SPEECH, ATTEMPTING TO PROBE WHETHER THE FRAUD CHARGES WERE A SMOKE SCREEN TO INTERRUPT THE RETORNO PROCESS. ROLDOS POINTED TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE ELECTORAL MECHANISM IN THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDS AND HINTED THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT WAS BEHIND THE PATENT EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT THE JULY 16 ELECTION IN ORDER TO BLOCK HIS BID. HE ACCUSED THE POLICE'S OFFICE OF POLITICAL SECURITY OF ARRANGING PROVOCATIVE ACTS TO DISCREDIT HIM AND HIS CANDIDACY. DURAN-BALLEN SAID HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS ANY CONSPIRACY TO TERMINATE THE PROCESS AND DECLARED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 06448 01 OF 02 142253Z

THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN REVEALED THUS FAR ABOUT THE ELECTION WHICH WOULD WARRANT ANY DISRUPTION. NEVERTHELESS, HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD AN OPEN MIND ABOUT ARIZAGA'S CHARGES AND WOULD AWAIT HIS SPEECH (WHICH IS EXPECTED FRIDAY NIGHT). REPORTERS AND CANDIDATES AGREED THAT THERE WAS A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RANDOM PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITIES WHICH HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NULLIFICATION OF 10 PERCENT OF THE VOTE THUS FAR AND GENUINE, PURPOSEFUL, AND WIDESPREAD FRAUD. ROLDOS EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT THE ENCOUNTER THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAD GIVEN ITS WORD OF HONOR REPEATEDLY TO RESPECT THE PROCESS AND THE COMPLETION OF THE PROCESS WAS LINKED TO THE HONOR OF THE ARMED FORCES.

5. THE BATTLE WAS JOINED DURING THE DAY WITH A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS FROM OTHER CENTER-LEFT ELEMENTS. FADI, THE COMMUNIST-SPONSORED ELECTORAL FRONT, ACCUSED THE MILITARY AND OLIGARCHY OF PLOTTING TO DISRUPT THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF THE SET.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 06448 02 OF 02 142300Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /053 W  
-----031598 142317Z /12

O 142155Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9405  
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 6448

DEMOCRATIC LEFT ALSO ISSUED A LENGTHY STATEMENT ALONG THE SAME LINES. FRANCISCO (PANCHO) HUERTA, ERSTWHILE LIBERAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHOSE OWN BID WAS FRUSTRATED SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER BY THE SAME TRIBUNAL, WEIGHED IN WITH HIS MOST UNEQUIVOCAL DENUNCIATION OF CIVILIAN/MILITARY CONSPIRACY YET. HE DIRECTLY CONNECTED THE ARMED FORCES TO THE SET AND ACCUSED THEM OF CHANGING THEIR MIND ABOUT THE PROCESS AND OFFERED ARIZAGA'S APPOINTMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE SET AS PROOF. HE ADDED THAT THE OBJECT OF THE DESCRIBED DERAILEMENT OF THE PROCESS WAS TO PERPETUATE MILITARY RULE OR TO CONVOKE A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD BE RIGGED TO PROTECT CERTAIN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. IF INDEED THE JULY 16 ELECTIONS HAVE TO BE INVALIDATED BECAUSE OF MASSIVE PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITIES OR FRAUD, HUERTA CHALLENGED THE ARMED FORCES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR GOOD FAITH BY IMMEDIATELY TURNING OVER POWER TO A RESPECTED CIVILIAN AS INTERIM PRESIDENT WHO WOULD OVERSEE FAIR ELECTIONS.

6. WITH THE PROSPECT THAT CRUCIAL ACTIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS TO TERMINATE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 06448 02 OF 02 142300Z

THE AIR IS CURRENTLY FILLED WITH RUMORS OF MILITARY PLOTTING, ABOVE AND BEYOND THE GOE-SET CONSPIRACY. MOST

OF THESE CANARDS MENTION THE PARTICIPATION OF POLITICALLY OPPORTUNISTIC ARMY GENERALS RICHILIEU LEVOYER OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ PALACIOS OF THE GENERAL STAFF. NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL RAUL SORROSA, WHO IS A ROLDOS SUPPORTER, TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 11 THAT ARMED FORCES WOULD NEVER LET GENERALS JARRIN AND DURAN ARCENTALES GET AWAY WITH THEIR PLOT AND THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY ORGANIZE THE RESISTANCE TO THEM. OMINOUSLY, PRESIDENT POVEDA IS REPORTED TO BE VACATIONING WITH HIS MISTRESS ON THE BEACH LEADING TO SPECULATION THAT HE IS RESIGNED TO PLAY THE PONTIUS PILATE ROLE IN THIS EPIC.

7. COMMENT: THE LINES SEEM FAIRLY WELL DRAWN TO REACT TO ARIZAGA'S CHARGES AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE RETORNO PROCESS, IN ITS PRESENT FROM, SURVIVES. THE CENTER-LEFT, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY (WHICH MAY BE IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF ITS STUDENT CONNECTIONS) SUPPORTS THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS. SO DO THE MOST IMPORTANT MEDIA ORGANS. GENERALLY CONSIDERED OPPOSED ARE THE SET, THE GUAYAQUIL OLIGARCHY, AND KEY MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AND THE RAUL CLEMENTE HUERTA WING OF THE LIBERAL PARTY. HOWEVER, SITTING ON THE FENCE IS SIXTO DURAN, WHO HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT HE SUSPECTS THERE HAS BEEN SOME FRAUD IN VIEW OF HIS DISAPPOINTING SHOWING ON JULY 16, BUT WHO IS NOT SURE. DESPITE THEIR WEIGHT, FEW ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PRO-RETORNO GROUPS CAN MOBILIZE TO BLOCK THE EXPECTED ATTEMPT TO CANCEL THE ELECTIONS FOLLOWING ARIZAGA'S SPEECH. THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES, AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE ARMED FORCES--EVEN WHEN DIVIDED ETHICALLY--DO NOT LEAD TO ENCOURAGING CONCLUSIONS. NONETHELESS, IF THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 06448 02 OF 02 142300Z

PLOTTERS HAD RELIED ON SURPRISE AND COUNTED ON THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT THE ARMED FORCES WERE SOMEWHAT REMOVED FROM THE SCHEME, THEY MUST BE DISAPPOINTED. AN ALERT MEDIA AND SOME BOLD POLITICIANS APPEAR TO HAVE BELLED THE CAT AND HAVE RENDERED ANY ATTEMPT AGAINST THE PROCESS AT LEAST A RISKIER PROPOSITION.  
GONZALEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978QUITO06448  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780374-1182  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** QUITO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780966/aaaaccmv.tel  
**Line Count:** 214  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** eb0d2250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1432545  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARIZAGA\S APPOINTMENT TO SET PRECIPITATES CONSPIRACY CHARGES  
**TAGS:** PINT, EC, SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, SET, (ARIZAGA, RAFAEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/eb0d2250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014